

Testimony of Joshua Hayes
Montgomery College Student, Germantown Campus
The Montgomery County Council
Operating Budget Hearing
April 13, 2023, at 7 p.m.

Good evening, Council President Glass and members of the Montgomery County Council.

Thank you for the honor to speak to you. My name is Joshua Hayes. I am a Gaithersburg resident and I serve as a Student Senator at the Montgomery College Germantown Campus.

I am studying computer science: information systems with plans to transfer so I can earn a bachelor's degree in Computer Science. I hope to one day work as an IT professional in Montgomery County.

Let me be direct: I want to thank you for helping to save my life.

Through your ongoing support of MC, you helped me to pull myself up from homelessness.

During those dark days, I slept as best I could at the Rockville Metro Station, and I spent my days reading in the Rockville public library. The library staff connected me with the Montgomery Crisis Center and Manna Food—and through them I found Nourish Now and Wider Circle.

But most importantly, the Crisis Center led me to Worksource Montgomery and introduced me to Montgomery College.

With access to affordable tuition and the quality classrooms and labs, I can pursue the education I need.

Thanks to the County's support, I rose from homelessness to college student with a bright future. I am now on a career path that will help me thrive. I am on track to graduate with my degree in May of 2024.

I am here to ask for your continued support of Montgomery College—the place that has given me direction and put me on the path to success.

Please support Montgomery College's budget requests.

Thank you for all you do for Montgomery County residents. And thank you for supporting MC—you are changing lives—like mine